



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

**The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management**
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April 2012



N.H. Department of Safety photograph
The State Emergency Operations Center, activated for the Seabrook Station Ingestion Pathway Exercise on April 17-18. The scenario called for the evacuation of the entire Seabrook Emergency Planning Zone by the end of the first day of the exercise. The second day focused on defining the long-term exclusion zone, preparation for the return of residents to areas outside that zone and health and safety precautions for the returning population. Nuclear plant ingestion pathway exercises are conducted every six years.

RAIN ARRIVES AFTER EIGHT DRY WEEKS – New Hampshire received the first significant rain in weeks beginning last weekend (April 21-22), caused by a nor'easter that affected the whole Northeast, extending as far west as Ohio. Some parts of the state received nearly four inches. The rain lessened the fire danger that had been plaguing the state, but it is not expected to relieve drought conditions. The N.H. Department of Environmental Services says the state has a moisture deficit of 4-8 inches over the past three months, so much more rain is still needed.

The National Weather Service posted a flood warning for Grafton County, and a flood watch for Belknap, Carroll, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford and Sullivan counties. No significant flooding was reported. Meanwhile, portions of Western New York, Western Pennsylvania and Northeastern Ohio got re-acquainted with winter as a result of the storm. Up to nine inches of heavy, wet snow fell in parts of those states.

GOOD NIGHT IRENE – Emergency management officials won't have Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene to kick around any more. The name Irene is being replaced by Irma for Atlantic Basin tropical storms by the hurricane committee of the World Meteorological Organization because of the destruction the storm caused. Irene killed 40 people in the U.S., five in the Dominican Republic and three in Haiti and caused damage estimated at \$7.3 billion. It was one of 2011's 14 billion-dollar disasters. Irene was downgraded to a tropical storm as it roared up the Atlantic coast to New England on Aug. 27-29, but it dumped up to nine inches of rain on Vermont and northern New Hampshire, causing significant flooding. Tropical storm names are reused on a six-year rotation unless they are retired. NOAA says Irene is the 76th storm name to be retired in the Atlantic region since 1954.

NWS ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO HURRICANE WIND SCALES – The National Weather Service is making minor changes to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale Thresholds, effective May 15, just prior to the beginning of the Atlantic Hurricane Season. The modifications, which affect Categories 3-5, are intended to clarify the wind speeds associated with those categories when they are converted from knots to miles or kilometers per hour. Rounding numbers off meant the categories could overlap. A Category 3 storm is now defined as 111-130 mph and will be 111-129 mph. A Category 4 storm is 131-155 mph and will be 130-156 mph. And a Category 5 storm is 156 mph or higher and will be 157 mph or higher.

The National Weather Service says the changes will not change the designations of past or future storms because those categories are assigned on the basis of wind speed measured in knots, which is not being changed.

RED CROSS HONORS GOVERNOR LYNCH FOR DISASTER LEADERSHIP – Governor John H. Lynch was honored by the American Red Cross of New Hampshire for his leadership in natural disasters that occurred during his administration. The governor was among six people honored at the 2012 American Red Cross Annual Heroes Breakfast on March 22. Throughout the eight years of his tenure as governor, he has been a regular blood donor and has shown care and compassion throughout numerous disasters by visiting Red Cross shelters, and can often be seen speaking to both clients and volunteers offering his help and support.

REGISTRATION COMING FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE – The eighth annual New Hampshire Emergency Preparedness Conference is coming up on June 26 and online registration will open May 7. The conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester and will feature workshops and presentations on a variety of subjects, as well as the annual Stovepipe and Emergency Manager of the Year awards. There is no charge for the conference. To register, go to <http://www.nhemergencyprepconference.com/>.

FOOD INDUSTRY PREPARES FOR DISASTERS – HSEM staffers met with members of the N.H. Grocers' Association April 24 at the Holiday Inn in Concord for a presentation on emergency planning and a workshop based on a hurricane striking the state. The Grocers' Association represents the state's food distribution system, including large supermarket chains, mom and pop grocery stores, dairies and other food businesses. The complex "just-in-time" systems for supplying retail food establishments could be disrupted by power or communications failures, blocked roads or other infrastructure problems. The association is working to establish its own Emergency Operations Center and to improve emergency procedures for member companies to ensure the state's food supply during a major disaster. HSEM Director Chris Pope, Information and Analysis Center Co-director Jenn Harper and Natural Hazards Specialist Gregg Champlin conducted the workshop.

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION NIGHT – The 2nd New Hampshire Firefighter Appreciation Night will be held at the Northeast Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester on Tuesday, July 31st at 7:05 p.m. The N.H. Fisher Cats will be playing the Erie Sea Wolves and it will be an excellent time to come out and honor those professional, call, and volunteer firefighters who serve our communities every day. Tickets are \$12 for Premium box seats and \$10 for box seats. The Muscular Dystrophy of New Hampshire will receive \$6 for each Premium ticket and \$5 for each box seat. For more information contact Londonderry Firefighter Mike Roberts at mroberts@londonderrynh.org, or MDA's Teri DeCarli at 471-2722. Tickets can be ordered at nhfishercats.com or by calling 603-641-2005. Be sure to mention Fire Appreciation Night.

THE 2012 NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE CHIEFS ANNUAL MEETING – *A Day of Education*, was held at the New Hampshire Fire Academy on Thursday, April 12. Over 100 chiefs from all over New Hampshire attended. Breakout sessions included *Marketing your Department*; *Leadership-Are You the Leader You Want to Be?*; *EMS-What's new and what you need to know*; *Labor Relations*; *Fire Code Update & Waiver Process*; *Presenting Your Budget*; and *Emergency Managers: How to be Fire Chief and EM Director*. A number of vendors were available to speak with attendees and to support the N.H. Association of Fire Chiefs. The day ended with a dinner and the annual association business meeting.

ENROLL ONLINE FOR FIRE ACADEMY COURSES – A variety of firefighter training courses will be offered in the spring and summer, at the academy and at locations around the state. Courses include Firefighter II Rescue Skills Modules, Firefighter Rope Rescue Operations, Firefighter III Confined Space Rescue Technician and Hazardous Material Decontamination. For more information and registration, visit the N.H. Fire Academy training schedule page at: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/training/schedtrdates.html>.

SUGGESTIONS PLEASE – Every year HSEM and the N.H. Association of Broadcasters team up to produce radio spots on emergency preparedness. In recent years these have covered home and family emergency preparedness, emergency planning for schools and businesses, generator safety and other topics. If you have suggestions for the next series of radio spots, send them to newsletters@dos.nh.gov.

Keep up with emergency preparedness information in New Hampshire on www.readynh.nh.gov and [Twitter.com/ReadyNH](https://twitter.com/ReadyNH).